

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the section of the specification titled "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION" (beginning on page 5) with the following replacement section:

--- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a communications ~~protocol~~ method for use in a wireless network of devices which includes transmitting, from a first device, data in[,], the protocol having a frame including a first time slot for transmitting data, receiving, at one or more other devices, the data transmitted from the first device a second time slot, after the first time slot, and either for transmitting a first acknowledgment state in a second time slot after the first time slot, and a third time slot, after the second time slot, for or transmitting a second acknowledgement state in a third time slot after the second time slot, wherein the first and second acknowledgement states are either a positive acknowledge and a negative acknowledge, respectively, or a negative acknowledge and a positive acknowledge, respectively.

Preferably, the first acknowledgment state is a positive acknowledge, and the second acknowledgment state is a negative acknowledge.

Preferably, the first time slot is variable in length and the second and third time slots are fixed in length. Preferably, the positive acknowledge includes the transmission of a specific coded value containing sufficient redundancy to allow it to be recovered in the presence of received errors. Similarly the negative acknowledge includes the transmission of a specific coded value containing sufficient redundancy to allow it to be recovered in the presence of received errors.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a radio communications system including a transceiver/transmitter and at least two transceiver/receivers, wherein the transceiver/transmitter transmits data in a first time slot to the transceiver/receivers, ~~and wherein~~ upon receipt of data, each of ~~the~~ transceiver/receivers ~~returns~~ transmits either a first acknowledgement state in a second time slot, after the first time slot, or a second acknowledgement state in a third time slot after the second time slot, and the first and second

acknowledgement states are either a positive acknowledge and a negative acknowledge, respectively, or a negative acknowledge and a positive acknowledge, respectively.

Preferably, the first acknowledgment state is a positive acknowledge, and the second acknowledgment state is a negative acknowledge.

Preferably, the first time slot is variable in length and the second and third time slots are fixed in length.

Preferably, upon each transceiver/receiver detecting a correctly coded transmission in the negative acknowledge time slot, each transceiver/receiver discards the data previously received in the first time slot, and the transceiver/transmitter retransmits the data to each of the transceiver/receivers.

According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a transceiver/receiver for use in a radio communications system including at least one transceiver/transmitter and at least one other transceiver/receiver, ~~in use, the transceiver/receiver wherein~~ upon receiving a data packet in a first time slot from ~~transceiver/transmitter at least one of the transceiver/transmitters,~~ the transceiver/receiver either transmits a first acknowledgment state in a second time slot, after the first time slot, or transmits a second acknowledgment state in a third time slot, after the second time slot, and the first and second acknowledgment states are either a positive acknowledge and a negative acknowledge, respectively, or a negative acknowledge and a positive acknowledge, respectively.

Preferably, the transceiver/receiver further receives the first acknowledgment state in the second time slot from ~~the at least one of the other transceiver/receiver~~ transceiver/receivers in the communication system or receives the second acknowledgment state in the third time slot from ~~the at least one of the other transceiver/receiver~~ transceiver/receivers in the communication system.

Preferably, the first acknowledgment state is a positive acknowledge, and the second acknowledgment state is a negative acknowledge.

Upon receiving a negative acknowledge from the at least one other transceiver/receiver, the transceiver/receiver discards the data packet received in the first time slot.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a transceiver/transmitter for use in a communications system including at least one ~~other~~ transceiver/receiver, wherein ~~in~~ use, the transceiver/transmitter transmits a data packet in a first time slot to ~~the~~ at least one ~~transceiver/receiver~~ of the transceiver/receivers and receives ~~either one or both of a first acknowledge~~ acknowledgement state in a second time slot ~~[[,]]~~ after the first time slot from ~~one or more of the transceiver/receivers~~ at least one of the transceiver/receivers or receives ~~and a~~ second acknowledgment state in a third time slot after the second time slot from ~~at least one of the transceiver/receivers~~ at least one of the transceiver/receivers, and the first and second acknowledgement state are either a positive acknowledge and a negative acknowledge, respectively, and a negative acknowledge and a positive acknowledge, respectively.

According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, there is provided in a wireless network including a transceiver/transmitter and at least two ~~transceivers/receivers~~ transceiver/receivers, a method of disseminating data to be shared by with the at least two transceiver/receivers, the method including:

~~Transmitting~~ transmitting from the transceiver/transmitter, the data to the at least two transceiver/receivers;

~~Upon upon~~ unsuccessfully receiving the data ~~at by~~ at least one of the at least two transceiver/receivers, transmitting negative acknowledge data to indicate unsuccessful receipt of the data;

~~Retransmitting~~ retransmitting the data from the transceiver/transmitter; and

~~Replacing~~ replacing the data received by ~~the plurality of~~ each of the at least two transceiver/ receivers with the retransmitted data in each of the at least two transceiver/receivers.

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According to a sixth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of providing a marker in a data time frame, the method including:

encoding data bits at a particular point in a data sequence to provide states;

generating a state combination that is an illegal combination;

recognising that illegal combination as a marker.

Preferably, upon receiving a negative acknowledge, the transceiver/transmitter retransmits the data to the at least one transceiver/receivers.

The system and protocol of the present invention has many uses including applications in controlling domestic, industrial and office appliances. ---